AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 16. (canceled)

17. (new) An isolated nucleic acid consisting of 18 to 120 nucleotides wherein the sequence of the nucleic acid comprises:

(a) at least 18 consecutive nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 48;

(b) an RNA equivalent of (a);

(c) a sequence at least 64/84 identical to (a) or (b); or

(d) the complement of any one of (a)-(c).

18. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 17, wherein the at least 18 nucleotides comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 354.

19. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 17, wherein the nucleic acid consists of 18 to 24 nucleotides.

20. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 17, wherein the sequence of the nucleic acid consists of:

(a) at least 18 consecutive nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 48;

(b) an RNA equivalent of (a);

(c) a sequence at least 64/84 nucleotides identical to (a) or (b); or

(d) the complement of any one of (a)-(c).

21. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 20, wherein the at least 18 nucleotides comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NOS: 354.

22. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 20, wherein the nucleic acid consists of 18 to 24 nucleotides.

23. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 18, wherein the nucleic acid is an RNA.

24. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 21, wherein the nucleic acid is an RNA.

25. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 23, wherein the nucleic acid is capable of modulating expression of a target gene.

26. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 24, wherein the nucleic acid is capable of modulating expression of a target gene.

27. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 25, wherein the nucleic acid is at least 14/30 complementary to a binding site sequence of 18 to 24 nucleotides of a target gene and wherein the binding site sequence is located in an untranslated region of RNA encoded by the target gene.

28. (new) The nucleic acid of claim 26, wherein the nucleic acid is at least 14/30 complementary to a binding site sequence of 18 to 24 nucleotides of a target gene and wherein the binding site sequence is located in an untranslated region of RNA encoded by the target gene.

29. (new) A vector comprising an insert, wherein an insert consists of the nucleic acid of claim 17.

30. (new) A vector comprising an insert, wherein an insert consists of the nucleic acid of claim 20.

31. (new) A probe comprising an insert, wherein an insert consists of the nucleic acid of claim 17.

32. (new) A probe comprising an insert, wherein an insert consists of the nucleic acid of claim 20.

33. (new) A gene expression inhibition system comprising the vector of claim 29 and a means for inserting said vector into a cell.

34. (new) A gene expression inhibition system comprising the vector of claim 30 and a means for inserting said vector into a cell.

35. (new) A gene expression detection system comprising the probe of claim 31 and a gene expression detector functional to selectively detect expression of at least one gene.

36. (new) A gene expression detection system comprising the probe of claim 32 and a gene expression detector functional to selectively detect expression of at least one gene.